



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 21, 2003

S. 163 **Environmental Policy and Conflict Resolution Advancement** **Act of 2003**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
on April 9, 2003*

SUMMARY

S. 163 would reauthorize expenditures of the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund, which pays for the operations of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Dispute Resolution. Current law authorized the appropriation of about \$1 million a year through 2002 to that fund. S. 163 would authorize the appropriation of \$4 million a year from fiscal year 2004 through 2008 to that fund. The funding would be for operating costs and a new grant program to help nonfederal entities, such as state and local and tribal governments, that use the services of the institute.

Assuming appropriation of the amounts authorized in S. 163, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$18 million over the 2004-2008 period. S. 163 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

S. 163 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 163 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority ^a	1	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	1	0	0	0	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	4	4	4	4	4
Estimated Outlays	0	2	4	4	4	4
Spending Under S. 163						
Authorization Level ^a	1	4	4	4	4	4
Estimated Outlays	1	2	4	4	4	4

a. The 2003 level is the amount appropriated for that year to the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Outlay estimates are based on information from the U.S. Institute for Environmental Dispute Resolution, as well as historical spending patterns for this program.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

S. 163 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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